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THE USSR - GUARANTEE OF THE SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- CZECHOSLOVAKIA -

by Vaclav Kotyk

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THE USSR - GUARANTEE OF THE SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The following is a translation of an article by Vaclav Kotyk in Nova Mysl (New Thought), vol. 1960, No. 5, pages 475 - 483.

In these days we are celebrating the liberation of our country by the heroic Soviet army, an event which is one of the most glorious chapters in the history of Czechoslovak - Soviet relations. Because of this event, and on the basis of our most recent history, the working peoples of our nation have again and again proved to themselves that without a close alliance with the Soviet Union we cannot insure the independence and freedom of Czechoslovakia, and that only the conditions of such an alliance can fulfill and protect the interests of our nation. This fact in connection with the deep international political changes was reflected already during World War II in the ratification of the Czechoslovak-Soviet treaty which formed the basis for the new international status of postwar Czechoslovakia and which also meant the appearance of new relations between nations. Similarly, also the bad experiences of September 1938 and March 1939—the betrayal by capitalistic reaction and the defeatism of all the bourgeois leaders—have shown clearly that only the working class, led by the communist party, is capable of leading the peoples of our nation in their struggle for liberation and also of assuming the leadership of our state after the liberation. Soviet orientation of our foreign policy, which has become the mainstay of the foreign policy of the People's Democratic Republic of Czechoslovakia, is a concrete expression of the marshalling of the working class of our land toward political power as well as the result of the prolonged struggle of the communist party for the development of Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship. In the new conditions after 1945, however, this friendship, stemming from the deepest ideals of socialism, became an organic, inseparable part of our entire future progress. A strong, fraternal union between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia has become one of the greatest luxuries of our nations and at the same time also the fulfillment of the long term progressive traditions of our nations.

However, we do not think of the Soviet Union only as the liberator of our nations from the yoke of fashistic tyranny, but also as a socialist state and an ally of the CSR (Ceskoslovenska republika - Czechoslovak Republic), who by her very existence has enabled the working peoples of our nation to determine freely the further development of the Czechoslovak state in the direction of people's democracy, and who allowed the working peoples to approach the realization of the program of national and democratic revolution without fears of imperialistic

intervention. The Czechoslovak - Soviet alliance has become a shield against the attacks of internal and international reactionary powers striving to prevent our working peoples from becoming the sovereign masters of our land. From the very beginning the KSC (Komunisticka Strana Ceskoslovenska-Communist Party of Czechoslovakia) has uncompromisingly stood against all efforts trying to weaken the alliance between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia which expresses fully the interests of the working people who see in this alliance not only the heritage of our common fight against fascism but also the guarantee of the peaceful fulfillment of our socialistic desires.

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Our people have come to know the solidarity and the aid of the Soviet Union quite concretely already in the first months following the liberation of our country. At the beginning of June 1945 the Soviet Army Command gave to the City of Prague the amount of grain, food and salt needed at that time. At the beginning of July the Soviet government gave 8000 tons of grain, 750 tons of sugar and 270 tons of salt to the cities of Ostrava and Brno which enabled us to better the nutrition of the inhabitants of these cities. Before the end of 1945 the Soviet Union delivered in to Czechoslovakia, without previous treaty agreements, 76,000 tons of iron ore, 9,000 tons of manganese ore, over 9,000 tons of flax and also coal, nickel, zinc, crude oil and oil products, leathers, natural rubber, animal feeds, vegetable and animal fats and many other materials. During the Moscow negotiations of the Czechoslovak governmental delegation in July 1946, and July 1947, the Soviet government transferred, without reward, the ownership of the great synthetic gasoline plant in Most as well as many entire factories and hundreds of various machines to the Republic of Czechoslovakia. The signing of the business and the waterway treaty on the 11th of December 1947, formed also a basis for a long term Czechoslovak-Soviet, economical cooperation. The Soviet Union helped us to overcome grave supply difficulties in the period of bad harvest in 1947 by steady supplies of grain. Already in that era, the Soviet Union had become our main source of all of the basic raw materials and foods, which formed then about 9/10 of our entire import from the USSR. At the same time the USSR became the main market for the products of our gradually renovated consumer goods and light industry which in 1949 formed almost one half of our total export to the USSR and about 3/4 of the total Czechoslovak export of such products. These facts prove that our economical relations with the Soviet Union were in full harmony with the goals of our internal economical policy, and that they contributed in a decisive manner to the fulfillment of the two year plan and to the successful beginning of the first five year plan, the primary task of which was the buildup and reconstruction of our industry in order to develop a material, production basis of socialism.

The total development of international relations during the first years after the war, when the imperialistic tendencies of the policies of the leading circles of the western powers appeared more and more strongly especially on the territory of the neighboring West Germany, proved the rightness and the abiding necessity of our close universal ties with the USSR. In these circumstances we could clearly see the rightful fusion of our entire development toward socialism with the development of all around cooperation and with the strengthening of our alliance with the Soviet Union, as well as the mutual connection between socialism and the definitive guarantee of the freedom and independence of our country. Until February 1948 the bourgeois clique tried in all possible ways to prevent the development of the new directions in Czechoslovak internal and foreign policy, primarily by asserted efforts to weaken the ties binding us to the Soviet Union. However, the working peoples of Czechoslovakia have singlemindedly decided by their February victory that there will be no changes in the orientation of the foreign policy of the people's democratic Republic of Czechoslovakia, and that Czechoslovakia will remain forever firmly on the side of the Soviet Union. Thus the maneuvering efforts of the bourgeoisie were removed decisively even from the province of Czechoslovak-Soviet relations, which then entered into a new phase and were able to develop further in the fullest sense of proletarian internationalism. These principles have been always carried by the KCS, which, from its very origin, has been connected by international bonds to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The ruling circles of the imperialistic lands have been and are fully conscious of the international political consequences of successful socialistic development of Czechoslovakia, a land industrially progressive, a land whose working peoples have, in a free decision in favor of socialism, insured the development and freedom of that land in a manner which can never be accomplished by capitalism and its bourgeois democracy.

The successful application of the rules of general socialistic development in the concrete conditions of our country refuted totally the bourgeois assertion that socialism is suitable only for economically underdeveloped countries. Our experiences have become valuable teachings for the communistic parties of industrially progressive countries. In the post-February era, especially during the years of the cold war, the imperialists used the most varied means at hand to injure the socialistic upbuilding of our country. Our alliance with the Soviet Union enabled our working peoples to overcome this discrimination and embargo imposed by the imperialists on a broad scale in the hope that the Czechoslovak national economy would be weakened because of its dependence on import of many important raw materials. At this time when Czechoslovakia could not buy factory machine equipment, and was denied the delivery of equipment already paid for, the Soviet Union supplied us with machinery for many many factories, as well as giving us large quantities of machinery of extremely high technical standard. The orientation of the Czechoslovak national economy toward the Soviet

Union and the other lands of the socialistic camp, therefore excluded completely, the possibility of economical pressure in political affairs and Czechoslovakia was completely freed from its previous, one sided dependence on the capitalistic market. Close and universal cooperation with the Soviet Union, thus facilitated a harmonious and progressive development of Czechoslovak national economy along socialistic lines.

In our first five year plan and in the further development of our national economy a decisive role was played by the long term agreement concerning the exchange of goods and payments between us and the USSR signed on the 3rd of November 1950, on the basis of which we have developed many previously unmastered production processes, have substantially broadened the basis of the heavy industry - especially heavy machinery - and have increased the technical standards of our production within a relatively short period of time. This agreement brought about a basic change in the type of goods exported into the USSR as well as the composition of our total import from the Soviet Union. Of the total volume of machine products exported to the USSR in the years 1951-1955 almost 45% were taken up by products of such newly mastered production processes of which 36.5% consisted of products prepared according to Soviet technological specification and documentation specified by the Soviet buyers. Soviet aid enabled us to develop entirely new branches of industry, and thought us to produce many new technically demanding products. Thus, for instance, we have learned to make extensive refrigerating systems of the compressor and turbo-compressor types, passenger ships, river tugboats, suction excavators, crude oil equipment etc. On the other hand the Soviet Union imported in the past years 30-40 % of our total export machinery which is the typical product of our national economy. Long term export of machinery and equipment to the USSR has aided substantially the stability of our machinery production and facilitated further development at a very high technological level.

The Soviet Union has become the main source of products important to our existence, that is primarily, a source of raw materials and foodstuffs. Since 1952 the turnover of our trade with the USSR represents approximately a full 1/3 of the total turnover of our foreign trade. Many important raw materials are supplied to us by the Soviet Union on a unique scale, covering the absolute majority of our total import. Thus, in 1957, we have imported from the USSR almost 3/4 of the iron and manganese ore used, more than 70% of copper, majority of the imported grain, and almost 90% of butter. Just in the years 1948-1958, we have imported from the Soviet Union 10.5 millions of tons of grain, about 113.8 thousand tons of meat, and 443.5 thousand tons of fat raw materials. Since, in our trade with the Soviet Union we take advantage of the principle of just worldwide prices which is very advantageous to us, we have saved, for instance in the years 1952 to 1953, 475 millions of Kcs (Koruna Ceskoslovenska - Czechoslovak crown) in iron ore purchases, and 200 millions of Kcs in purchases of cotton and wool, while the prices on the world market fluctuated excessively in connection with the war

in Korea. At the same time the USSR has allowed us many high level loans under very advantageous conditions, which contributed substantially to the solution of our difficult economical problems.

Without this aid from the Soviet Union we would never be able to build up the basis of socialistic society, to increase substantially the living standards of the working peoples, and to strengthen the international status of Czechoslovakia. The vital importance of the Soviet Union in the development of socialism in our country is pointed out by the fact that the bases of socialism were generally built up in times when the imperialist nations resorted to power politics in the province of international relations, and when on the basis of mistaken ideas of economical and military superiority of the capitalistic world they expended maximum effort on the weakening of socialistic countries, when they have practically destroyed international market and tried to delay the growth of the socialistic forces by policies of fervent armament. In this era when all the important capitalistic states were forced into anti-soviet alliances or at least to cooperate with such alliances, when the center of these aggressive preparations has shifted more and more towards the renewed West German militarism, the people's democratic Republic of Czechoslovakia took an important step forward in all areas of life, on the side of the Soviet Union. Our alliance and cooperation with the Soviet Union was the decisive condition which allowed us, even under the effect of stepped up enmity of the ruling classes, to increase the volume of industrial production in CSR four times the amount achieved in 1937. Thus the CSR became one of the few countries in the world with highest standard of living. Our many sided cooperation with the Soviet Union therefore became the basic external source of uninterrupted and swift development of our national economy, science and culture.

This collaboration is also extremely advantageous because the Soviet Union has undeniable superiority in the most important branches of science and technology, and is therefore the source of new, progressive technological ideas of the highest level. Scientific and technical cooperation has facilitated great gains in our national economy. Between the years 1948 and 1957 the volume of scientific and technical collaboration has increased more than 15 times in the number of cases. Thus, for instance, Soviet specialists have been consulted on the overall plan of Czechoslovak electrification which saved us almost one thousand millions of Kcs in the favor of our national economy. Similar was also the pilot project of the hydroelectric plant "Orlik" where by using Soviet experiences our economy has also gained multimillion savings. On the basis of Soviet experiences applied in the production of sulphuric acid we are expecting to increase the productivity of this branch of the chemical industry in the CSR by 60%; the yearly saving will amount to 4,800,000 Kcs. By building on Soviet experiences, we have, for instance, saved more than 25 million Kcs in the development of aluminum industry. Thousands of workers of the Czechoslovak and Soviet industries have mutually become acquainted with the most progressive manner of production and offered each other an enormous wealth of technological

documentation. Czechoslovak products as well as the experiences of the Czechoslovak workers, technologists and engineers and scientists are highly valued in the Soviet Union and are not an insignificant contribution to the economical development of the USSR. For instance, in the production of passenger cars "Volga" and "Tchaika" special manufacturing machinery of Czechoslovak origin is being used with a great success. Many Soviet sugar mills are completely equipped with Czechoslovak equipment etc.

Without the support of the Soviet Union we could not participate in atomic research and in its significant results. Czechoslovak scientists take part in the work of the United institute for nuclear research in Dubno near Moscow. They also study the problems of nuclear physics and the possibilities of peaceful usage of atomic energy in other scientific institutions of the USSR. According to the treaty concluded in April 1955, the Soviet Union, enabled us to build an experimental nuclear reactor and a cyclotron in Rezh near Prague and supplies us with the fissionable materials needed for its operation. Cooperation with the Soviet Union, which has reached the first place in the process of peaceful use of atomic energy, opens far-reaching perspectives even to our science, and even today presents it with great practical possibilities. Because of this, the working peoples of all nations, greeted the Soviet success in the study of the universe with tremendous enthusiasm. In the province of Czechoslovak-Soviet scientific and technological cooperation the principle of fraternal mutual aid is thus realized as the highest expression of proletarian internationalism in contemporary conditions. The aid of the USSR, as compared to the aid given by capitalistic countries, doesn't bind, but on the contrary liberates the creative energy of the people.

The development of cultural contacts with the Soviet Union has an important effect from the point of view of the education of our working people in the spirit of socialism. This contact is not directed only toward the recognition of the culture and life of the nations of both our countries but also is gradually enriched by many new elements consisting, for instance, of exchanges of individuals and groups etc... We must remember such important occasions as the tour of the Prague National Theater Opera Company in the USSR and the concerts of the Czechoslovak Philharmonic in front of Soviet audiences, and on the other hand the participation of Soviet artists in the concerts of the "Prague Spring" music festival, the role played by the Soviet moving picture industry in the film festivals in Karlovy Vary etc.. Soviet literature has won the hearts of our readers long time ago. Thus, just in the province of theatre, between the years 1945 and 1958, 283 titles of Soviet dramatic work have been translated and published, as well as 37 titles of music-dramatical creations in the field of classics and contemporary works.

In the Czechoslovak-Soviet relations we can thus see the full expression of the lawfull development of the socialistic countries, consisting of the fact that the further they move forward the deeper and stronger are their mutual relations. This can be seen from the point

of view of our country primarily in connection with the development of a progressive, socialistic society in our country. If, we were able to create decisive internal conditions for the fulfillment of this task with an all around help of the USSR, then the closest cooperation with the Soviet Union remains the basic external condition for its development. In the deep economical relations with the Soviet Union we are not concerned only with the exchange of goods, but also with the long term perspective cooperation connected intimately with our tasks to increase the total volume of our national economy in 1965 by 90 and 95% as compared to the year 1957.

But even the fastest growth of our base of raw materials could not supply the fast increasing needs of our smelting industry and our processing industry as well as the other branches of industry, and even the surpassing of the planned growth of our agricultural production couldn't cover the increasing needs of our population in the field of foods and raw materials for light and food industry. Mutual exchange of goods between CSR and the USSR will therefore in 1965 increase by 77% as compared to the year 1957, and will reach the amount of 40% of the total turnover of Czechoslovak foreign trade. Already today, of the total amount of crude iron produced in our country more than half has been made of Soviet ore. In the year 1965, more than 3/4 will be produced from Soviet ore. Besides the basic raw materials necessary for our economy, we will receive extensive aid from the USSR, especially in the field of new manufacturing processes involving mechanization and automation. Similarly, the mutual exchange of consumer goods, will develop on a large scale, because it is extremely important to the increase in the standard of living of the working peoples of both our lands.

It is necessary to remark, that the broadening and deepening of our cooperation with the Soviet Union, is facilitated also by the swift, general development of Soviet national economy, along its road to communism. We must remember that the seven year plan for the development of the national economy of the USSR, approved in February 1959 by the special XXIst congress of the KSSS (Komunisticka Strana Sovetskoho Svayu - Communist Party of the Soviet Union), was elaborated not only as a plan for the development of the Soviet Union, but also as a plan which takes into consideration the needs of the other countries of the socialistic camp along their roads toward the final buildup of socialistic society. Powerful development of the raw material base of the USSR, swift development of technology, and the substantial increase in Soviet agricultural production, provide a stronger and broader basis also for our needs in these provinces. Simultaneously we can see, even in the province of Czechoslovak - Soviet relations the consequences of the deepening in the international, socialistic division of labor, in the form of production specialization with its related cooperation, which works to the advantage of both our countries but especially to the advantage of our country.

In this we are primarily concerned with our highly developed machinery production, which forms the core of our cooperation with the

Soviet Union, and in which specialization facilitates the full usage of our production capacity and of the rich experiences of our workers. Delimitation in the province of machinery, enables both our countries to reach higher serialized character of production as well as high world technological standard, which was almost impossible from our point of view, at the time when we were producing about 80% of the world machinery nomenclature by ourselves. In the deliveries of machinery products, which in the years 1961-1965 will form the main portion of our export to the Soviet Union, the Czechoslovak machine industry will specialize e.g. in the production of equipment for the chemical industry, electrical locomotives and diesel locomotives, specialized tools and machines, steel presses, equipment for food and light industry etc.. Deliveries of electrical and engine locomotives, the equipment of chemical factories as well as the deliveries of various machines and instruments, will reach in the year 1961-1965, approximately 42% of the total volume of Czechoslovak machine export to the USSR. Deliveries of chemical equipment will increase in the year 1965 approximately ten times as compared to the year 1958. On the other hand, in connection with mutual production specialization, we will import in the five year era, between 1961 and 1965, approximately 17% more machines and equipment from the USSR, than we have imported during the past ten years altogether.

At the same time we have signed with the USSR treaties concerning mutual solution of some of the important national economical problems, conditioned by the swift development of our socialistic economy. These are, for instance, our mutual construction of oil pipe-lines, specialized Soviet aid in the development of the new smelting industry in the CSR, cooperation in the broadening of iron ore bases, and the development in the USSR of processing factories for the production of colored metals for our use, cooperation in research, planning and production of the equipment of some of the products of the chemical industry.

The further stage in the development of Czechoslovak-Soviet relations can be seen especially in the transition to the higher forms of economical cooperation between the socialistic countries, as well as in the transition to the higher forms of political cooperation - as can be seen in the visits of party and governmental delegations - and also in the conditions of further strengthening of the unity of the socialistic camp, directed primarily against revisionistic attacks. In contrast to the year 1948, this further, substantial deepening of the cooperation and of the relations between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, is conditioned also by the needs of the development of the entire socialistic camp, of which both countries form an important part. Thus, not only the successes of Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union alone, but also the successes of the socialistic camp as a whole have made possible the development of the higher forms of mutual Czechoslovak-Soviet collaboration.

In this favorable situation the example of the USSR and of its rich experiences allow us to solve correctly and in time many problems connected with the development of a progressive socialistic society, in the concrete conditions of our country. Today we are primarily

concerned with the conclusions of the XXIst congress of the KSSS which contained many stimulants for the policies of our party especially in the report of comrade N.S. Khrushtchov. Why, even at this very time the KSC is realizing important measures for the deepening of socialistic democracy which are in substance the creative evaluation of the leninist principles of democratic centralism in our conditions. The practices of our development as well as the new problems which we have come to face are just another confirmation that the swift development of our socialistic economy and of our entire society brings out more and more as our specific tasks the elaboration of the basic questions recently solved or still being solved by the communist party of the Soviet Union.

The all-around development of the cooperation between the CSR and the USSR is the expression of the basic reality that there are no unsolved questions, disagreements or conflicts between our two lands or between our two communistic parties, but, on the contrary that there has been always a complete political and ideological unity between them. During the visit of the party and governmental delegation of the Soviet Union to Czechoslovakia in July 1957 comrade N. S. Khrushchov has remarked in his speech in Plzen: "Not only we have never had conflicts with your communistic party, but we have never had any differences of opinion concerning the world events and socialistic development either in theory or in practical realization of the marx-leninist theorems. Because of this the unusually good, almost fraternal relations between our communist parties and between our governments, will also form the best possible relations between the nations of the Soviet Union and the nations of Czechoslovakia." The depth of the Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship expressed in its substance by the fraternal union of both our nations on the basis of socialism, and by the unity of both countries in opinions concerning all internal and international political problems, the international revolutionary movement, and the development of socialism and communism, has been further confirmed by the visit of the first secretary of the UV KSC (Ustredni Vybor Komunistické Strany Ceskoslovenska - Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia) and the president of the republic comrade Antonin Novotny to the USSR in July 1958. At a mass meeting at the Prague Castle comrade A. Novotny, following his return on the 14th of July 1958, pointed out as the characteristical trait of the Moscow negotiations the fact that "our Soviet comrades have, along with us, pointed out again that there have never been any differences of opinion between our parties and that we have always been in a complete agreement and ideological unity.

Our relation to the Soviet Union and the KSSS remains the founding stone of our fidelity to proletarian internationalism. Because of this, the strong Czechoslovak-Soviet alliance and friendship extend far beyond the framework of merely twosided relations. On the contrary this alliance is an important contribution to the strengthening of the unity of the entire socialistic camp along the lines of proletarian internationalism most fully expressed in the November declaration of the communistic and workers parties of all the socialistic lands in

the year 1957. The KSC has always taken a firm and definite stand on the question of the leading role of the Soviet Union, which can be seen even in the strong orientation of our party in its efforts to insure socialism and peace. Truly we can consider as a proof of the ideological maturity of our party the fact that at the Moscow consultations in November 1957 its opinion proved to be completely identical with the points of view of the fraternal parties and especially with the viewpoints of the KSSS. The KSC learned correctly from the conclusions of the historic XXth congress of the KSSS and interpreted these conclusions as a program of an even faster expansion of socialist buildup and the deepening of socialistic democracy. Conscientious and creative realization of the conclusion of the XXth congress of the KSSS in the concrete conditions of our country enabled Czechoslovakia to play an important role in the struggle against revisionist attempts to impair the unity of the socialistic camp, which we have witnessed after the XXth congress. It was the very pressure exerted by the world reaction which showed fully the international significance of the unity between the KSSS and KSC and between the USSR and Czechoslovakia as an important agent of peace. The resolution of the UV KSC concerning the international political situation, passed on the 6th of December 1956, points out "that the constant strengthening of the unity of the lands of the socialistic camp led by the Soviet Union" is the most definite guarantee of the destruction of the plots of reactionary forces against peace and socialism. In the spirit of this principle even Czechoslovak foreign policy has considered and considers the strengthening of the unity of the socialistic camp as its basic task.

The correctness of this policy is confirmed even by the present day international developments in which the ruling circles of the western powers have been forced to abandon the defeated power politics as a result of a deep change in the balance of power between capitalism and socialism but in which they have not abandoned in the slightest way their desire to impair the unity of the socialistic camp. The strengthening of the Czechoslovak-Soviet alliance taken as our basic contribution to the strengthening of the unity of all the socialistic lands, therefore remains one of the most important tasks facing the peoples of our nation.

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The Czechoslovak-Soviet alliance is at the same time also a basis for a strong international status and the definitive security of our country. This fact becomes clearer and clearer in the present situation when on our western border West German militarists are coming more and more openly to the fore with the old hitlerite plans for the new rearrangement of the situation in central and eastern Europe, plans again motivated by anti-communism and revenge. This development stresses the fact that in Western Germany the government is again in the hands of those forces which in the past have oriented the direction of the aggressive plans of hitlerite Germany among others, also against Czechoslovakia.

Our alliance with the Soviet Union and the existence of a strong socialistic camp, which unites its efforts for peace within the framework of the defensive Warsaw Treaty, are our guarantee that the Munich infamy and the 15th of March will never be repeated. The selfdetermination and the independence of our republic are definitively guaranteed today against the danger of German imperialism and therefore the question of the danger of German imperialism has ceased to be a question of existence for socialistic Czechoslovakia. The main question of Czechoslovak foreign policy has become the strengthening of the alliance with the Soviet Union and the other lands of the socialistic camp, and an all-around realization of the policy of peace and friendship between nations. Thus, the ruling working class has solved, on the side of the Soviet Union, once and for all, the hundreds of years old problem of freedom, independence and security of the nations of Czechoslovakia.

The life interests of the nations of Czechoslovakia are in complete harmony with the proposals of the Soviet Union concerning the transfer of West Berlin - that focus of espionage activities directed against the socialistic lands - into a free, demilitarized city, and the removal of the vestiges of the Second World War by conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany. Czechoslovakia welcomes especially the fact that the Soviet proposal concerning the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany not only confirms the defunctness of the Munich treaty with all its consequences, but also contains active measures against all expressions of revengism, against the existence of revengistic parties and organizations demanding the revision of the German border and making territorial claims against other states. Czechoslovakia supports the peaceful efforts of the Soviet Union by her specific contribution in the province of the struggle against revengism primarily by the development of friendly relations with the German Democratic Republic, the first truly peace loving state in German history.

In the province of international relations Czechoslovakia realizes the leninist principles of peaceful coexistence, and fully supports the Soviet opinion that there is no controversial question in the world today which cannot be solved on the basis of negotiation.

The close alliance with the Soviet Union has enabled Czechoslovakia to utilize fully all the specific, favorable conditions in the pursuit of the policy of peace, and to become an independent and truly important agent in international politics. Thanks to this alliance, Czechoslovakia was able to take an important stand in the contemporary international situation on the side of the development of new directions in the province of international relations, and therefore also an important stand in the economical competition of the two social systems. This fact is clearly seen in all the sectors of Czechoslovak foreign policy and in its initiative and acts within the framework of international organizations. The contribution of our country to the struggle for preservation of peace is more and more valued by a broad international public. If we want to point out the main sources of this important international status and the important role of our socialistic republic on the field

of history then we must once more conclude that they emanate from Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship and cooperation.

Because fifteen years ago Czechoslovakia came firmly to the side of the Soviet Union, and because further developments strengthened its status in the socialistic camp, our country has acquired an important influence on the development of international situation, such as never before. The road toward the development of a mature socialistic society on which we have just started is not only a road toward an important increase in the standard of living of all our working peoples, but also our important contribution to the struggle of the nations of the world for peace and socialism.

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